



English/Language Arts

4th grade	42% advanced or proficient
8th grade	79% advanced or proficient
10th grade	42% advanced or proficient
Math	
4th grade	65% advanced or proficient
8th grade	51% advanced or proficient
10th grade	48% advanced or proficient
Science	
4th grade	86% advanced or proficient
8th grade	50% advanced or proficient
10th grade	38% advanced or proficient

Mrs. Donovan announced that the Brackett School ranked number 1 in the State. The Hardy ranked 20th and the Thompson ranked 28th. All of the elementary schools ranked in the top third. The Ottoson Middle School ranked 105 out of 425 schools and AHS ranked 134th. The Superintendent stated that at the next meeting she expects to know what AHS scores would have been without the zeros from the students who boycotted the test last spring. Supt. Donovan emphasized that the staff and students should be recognized for their hard work.

Arlington Youth Development

Mr. Jim Robillard and Mr. Paul McKenna addressed the Committee relative to continued improvements on Peirce Field. Arlington Youth Alliance would like to participate with the athletic subcommittee on building a press box at Peirce field and asked if that subcommittee could reconvene to discuss it. Mr. Carey stated that a meeting would be scheduled in January AYA would be notified when the date is set.

Mr. Arthur Ales, representative of Arlington Youth Development, asked the Committee's support in his effort to raise money to buy defibrillators for use in athletic events. Citing 12 recent deaths during sporting events due to cardiac arrest, Mr. Ales provided Committee Members handouts explaining how a four hour training session sponsored by the American Heart Association can save lives.

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. McKenna it was

Voted to enter Executive Session to discuss a legal issue. RC: Unanimous

Executive Session 8:35-9:25 PM

Position Paper 'Teaching to the MCAS or the Standards?'

Ms. Goodman stated that she would like to make the position paper 'Teaching to the MCAS or the Standards?' the official statement of the Arlington Public Schools.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Mr. Healy it was

Voted to accept the entitled 'Teaching to the MCAS or the Standards?' (2nd draft) as the official statement of the Arlington Public Schools (with the addition of "using a variety of assessments to measure students' progress" on page 4) to be disseminated widely to the public. Unanimous

Ms. Goodman would like to submit the paper as a guest column in the Arlington Advocate in addition to the staff, parents and public. The Committee thanked Dr. Gurry for the excellent job creating the paper.

Redistricting – Initial Discussion

Supt. Donovan made a request to lay this agenda item on the table until the end of the meeting.

On a motion made by Mr. Sullivan and seconded it was unanimously voted to lay on the table item 7 on the agenda **Redistricting – Initial Discussion** until the end of the meeting.

Ottoson 6-8 Curriculum Guide (Draft)

Ms. Goodman stated that she would welcome feedback from Committee Members on the curriculum draft. The Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee will meet to review it more thoroughly sometime in December. Dr. Gurry explained that the process used to create the guide included input from middle school staff and department heads, and will contain an opening statement written by Paul Lamoureux, Ottoson principal. There will be a parent forum to disseminate the guide upon completion.

Retirement Plus

Mrs. Donovan explained that a retirement seminar was held for teachers considering retirement in June 2001. The Superintendent explained that teachers planning to retire must pay 11% in retirement and in some cases could owe as much as \$18,00000 in order to retire at 80% of their salary. She expects 20-30 teachers to retire in June.

Superintendent Donovan announced that she is in the process of interviewing for the human resource position and could have a finalist by the December 12th meeting.

Local Education Foundation Project

Supt. Donovan reported that the new foundation is scheduled to be up and running soon. It will be used to support education in Arlington through grant funding, published newsletters, and project funding.

Report of Subcommittees

Community Relations Subcommittee

Ms. Goodman reported that at its meeting on Monday, November 27th the subcommittee discussed the MCAS parent information nights. The Ottoson will host the forum explaining the MCAS results on December 6th for middle and high school parents, and the Bishop will host elementary parents on December 13th.

Policy & Procedures Subcommittee

Mr. Healy reported that at its meeting this afternoon with Jim Hardy of MASC, members revised the first section and a part of section two of the policy manual. The subcommittee will meet again in January.

Dr. Gurry presented to the Committee a change in the web page policy that would allow high school students to design web pages to use in their portfolios. Teachers and students have requested that students be allowed to do so with parental permission.

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded it was

Voted to waive the subcommittee requirement and vote to accept Asst. Supt. Gurry's recommended change on the web page policy at the next regular meeting. Unanimous

New Business

The Supt. asked that the school committee ask the state to declare that Arlington has a critical shortage in substitute teachers and teacher assistants. In doing so, it would allow recently retired teachers to return to work immediately as substitute or teacher assistant after retirement. Such employees would not be members of the AEA.

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. McKenna it was

Voted to support the Superintendent's recommendation to write to the Department of Education for permission to declare a critical shortage in the areas of substitute and teacher assistants in Arlington. Unanimous.

" Supt. Donovan informed Committee Members that a Budget and Revenue Task Force is being set up to discuss the revenue forecasts of 2000/2001 of all town departments. Mr. McKenna stated that he would be willing to represent the School Committee on that task force.

" The School received \$29,000.00 from Medicaid which goes directly to the Town.

" Electromagnetic doors are being installed at the Ottoson.

" The Capital Budget Committee approved every request except the painting of AHS.

Redistricting-Initial Discussion

Supt. Donovan presented an initial view of redistricting for the seven elementary schools. Criteria that she took into consideration included: avoidance of students crossing main streets, minimal busing, and census figures for students entering in kindergarten 2001.

" **Brackett** from Pleasant St. to Park Avenue including the part of the Bishop districts now to the south of Massachusetts Avenue.

" **Bishop** from the Medford and Winchester lines to the north side of Massachusetts Avenue (the current boundaries include a section south of Mass. Ave. to route 2).

" **Dallin** from Park Avenue to the Lexington line (the current boundaries include a section east of Park Avenue).

" **Hardy** from the Cambridge line Pleasant Street, all to the south of Massachusetts Avenue (the current boundaries include a section to the north of Mass. Ave. near the Cambridge line, and they do not extend to Pleasant).

" **Peirce** would remain basically the same

" **Stratton** would remain basically the same

" **Thompson** from Mass Ave., north to the Medford line and following Medford Street on the west (the current boundaries exclude a section to the north of Mass. Ave. near the Cambridge line).

The Superintendent explained that she took into consideration the capacity of each school upon completion. She would hold public hearings, and the Bishop School might begin some redistricting in September 2001. Mrs. Donovan asked that each member make an appointment with her to review the maps and give their input.

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously

Voted to adjourn at 10:55 PM.

Submitted by
Karen Tassone